



OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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Linda McCulloch
Superintendent

To: Montana Libraries
From: State Superintendent Linda McCulloch
Date: April 23, 2003
Re: Veterans Honorary High School Diploma Now Available

I am proud to announce that **Senate Bill 81**, requested by the Office of Public Instruction, passed the 2003 Montana Legislature to provide special recognition in the form of an Honorary High School Diploma to certain veterans.

The State of Montana recognizes the important contributions and sacrifices WWII, the Korean War and Vietnam War veterans made in the defense of our nation in awarding this honor. Upon returning home, many of these veterans were not able to finish high school for a variety of reasons. They led productive lives and built our communities over their lifetime.

As the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, I am excited to issue an honorary high school diploma recognizing that what our veterans did not get in the school classroom, they learned in the classroom of life.

The application process is simple and requires a copy of the veteran's discharge papers. The application can be found on the OPI web site at:

<http://www.opi.state.mt.us/veteransed/diploma.html>, or by contacting:

Montana Office of Public Instruction
Attn: Debbie Casey - Veteran's Honorary Diploma
PO Box 202501
Helena MT 59620-2501
406 444-4438

I am also encouraging schools to consider ways to involve students and community members to recognize their veterans. It will give our youth the opportunity to learn and better understand American history, as well as connect with a generation that many know too little about.

I will be hosting a ceremony on May 27, 2003 in the Capitol Rotunda to award Montana's first group of veterans with their honorary high school diplomas. If you would like more information about participating in May's ceremony, please call Jan Lombardi at 444-1641 or e-mail jlombardi@state.mt.us.

Please share this information with any veterans and their families that would be interested in obtaining an honorary diploma and/or participating in an award ceremony.

Full text of Senate Bill 81 is available at:

<http://data.opi.state.mt.us/bills/2003/billhtml/SB0081.htm>